The People's Korea

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"High-level Political Negotiations" Possible If North-South Dialogues Proceed Successfully: Mr. President

President Kim Il Sung said that "high-level political negotiations" between north and south Korea will be possible, "if the north-south dialogues proceed successfully."

His statement implies that the DPRK is ready to hold "premier-level" talks with the south if the south Koreans show their seriousness for national reunification in the process of north-south dialogues.

President Kim Il Sung made the statement in his annual New Year address. **(See full text of presidential New Year address on pages 1 and 2)**

In his nationally televised New Year address, the President urged the United States, "a party responsible for the solution of the Korean question," to accept the tripartite talks aimed at easing the tension on the Korean Peninsula and creating the preconditions for the country's reunification.

In January last year, the DPRK proposed three-way talks with the United States and south Korea. Through these talks, Pyongyang hopes to sign a peace agreement with Washington formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War and issue a non-aggression declaration with Seoul, putting an end to the arms race and military confrontation between north and south Korea.

To borrow the presidential remarks, these measures will serve to "ease the tension in our country, remove the danger of a new war and ensure a durable peace" and create "conditions and environments for the peaceful reunification of the country."

Saying that "independence, friendship and peace" are the basic ideas of external activities, he said: "Our people set store by peace and want to live in a peaceful world."

"Last year, firmly maintaining *chajusong* in external activities, we made strenuous efforts to develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with many countries around the world and to safeguard world peace and security," declared Mr. President.

The official friendship visits to the Soviet Union and East European socialist countries by a party and state delegation led by the President himself, and the mutual visits between Korean and Chinese leaders promoted friendship and solidarity with these countries and developed economic and technical interchange and cooperation with them.

President Kim Il Sung said that friendly and cooperative relations with the Third World countries including the non-aligned nations made further progress.

The DPRK took active measures for cooperation in agriculture with many African countries "in an effort to effect South-South cooperation."

The DPRK President has always stressed the need for South-South cooperation "in abolishing the old international economic order, in establishing a new one and also in bringing economic self-support to the developing countries."

In the New Year address, Mr. President highly appreciated the successful delivery of relief goods to south Korean flood victims that opened the door for the first north-south economic talks and a resumption of long-stalled Red Cross negotiations.

"This is an event of great significance in easing the tension in our country, in achieving national harmony and unity and in paving the way to peaceful, national reunification," stressed the President.

He urged the nation to increase the might of the socialist system and display its superiority to the full as this year will mark the 40th anniversaries of Korea's liberation and the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Especially, he stressed that the superiority of the social system must be shown in the people's standard of living.

Presidential New Year Address

Follows the full text of the New Year address delivered by President Kim Il Sung:

Comrades,

Having seen out the year of victory in the worth-while struggle for the revolution and construction, we are greeting the first morning of a hopeful New Year 1985.

On the occasion of the New Year, I should like to offer warm congratulations and greetings to all our people, to the brothers in the south, to our compatriots in Japan and to all other overseas Koreans, who are striving for socialist construction and for the revolutionary cause of Juche, for the reunification of the country and national prosperity.

Today, greeting the New Year with a new hope and a high ambition, all our people are joyfully looking back upon the past year which was replete with proud victories and momentous events, and are fervently resolved to accelerate the revolutionary struggle and the work of construction this year.

The year 1984 was a historic year when the international solidarity with our revolution was further cemented as a result of the energetic external activities of our party and of the government of the Republic.

Their basic ideas of external activities consist in independence, friendship and peace. Last year, firmly maintaining *chajusong* in external activities, we made strenuous efforts to develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with many countries around the world and to safeguard world peace and security.

Last year our party and state delegation paid official friendship visits to the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in Europe in order to strengthen friendship and solidarity with these fraternal countries, to develop interchange and cooperation with them and to share with each other the experience gained in the building of socialism. The delegation's visits were made successfully, receiving cordial hospitality and warm welcome from the peoples and leaders of the fraternal countries and brought about satisfactory results. Our delegation's historic visits to the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in Europe powerfully demonstrated the unity and solidarity of the socialist countries and the international communist movement and developed the friendly and cooperative relations with the fraternal parties and countries onto a higher stage.

Last year an important milestone was set up in the development of our friendly relations with the People's Republic of China, a brotherly neighbour of ours. In May last year, Comrade Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, visited our country and adorned Korea-China friendship beautifully by carrying with him the friendly feelings of the 1,000 million Chinese people and some time ago we paid an informal visit to the People's Republic of China, and had momentous opportunities of meeting its high-ranking leaders and talking with them in a comradely and friendly atmosphere. Through mutual visits, contacts and talks, comradeship and inti-

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British Magazine Reports on Seoul's Economic Crisis

The Economist, in the December 8 issue, reported on Seoul's economic crisis. Here are excerpts from the story:

South Korea is slowing. As a result, it is starting to miss its own ambitious targets and to raise bankers' eyebrows. The slowdown is partly deliberate and sensible. In 1984's first quarter, the country's real gnp grew at an annual rate of 9.7%, prompting fears that an overheated economy could boost inflation. So monetary policy was tightened. In the second quarter, the annualised gnp growth rate fell to 7.2%. Then between June and September it slowed to 4.6%.

Flood damage to the red-pepper crop in September was one reason; slower growth of exports was another. The big construction industry has suffered as Middle Eastern contracts have been cut back. Shipbuilders are finding it hard to keep up with the Japanese in a depressed market for new ships.

One quarter's results do not make a trend, and the finance ministry still expects total growth this year of about 7.5% compared with 1983's 9.5! . But, embarrassingly, South Korea is failing for the first time since 1980 to hit its targets for reducing the deficit on its overseas current account. The country slashed its deficit from $5.3 billion in 1980 to $2.6 billion in 1982 and then to $1.6 billion in 1983. Emboldened, it then set a target of $1 billion for 1984. Now the finance ministry says the deficit will be at least $1.4 billion, and to reach that will require a surplus in the final quarter.

The ministry is split between the bold, who want the new year's economic plan to aim for a $700m deficit for 1985, and the prudent, who prefer a moderate target ($1 billion) that might then be exceeded. This is not mere quibbling. Current-account deficits and missed targets are watched keenly by bankers. South Korea is Asia's biggest debtor in absolute terms. . . . . .

(Continued on page 3)

DPRK Sets Up General Mission in Paris

The DPRK Government set up its general mission in Paris on December 11 after its agreement with the French Government, reported the official Korean Central News Agency on December 15, 1984.

The French decision to upgrade Pyongyang's trade mission to the status of "general delegation"—a quasi-diplomatic representative—shocked the Seoul authorities.

The south Korean ambassador to Paris came back to Seoul on January 4 for talks with "government" officials on the French decision.

The DPRK general mission will directly have official relations with the French Ministry of External Relations and deal with overall matters in different fields of politics, economy and culture between the DPRK and France.

The mission, its officials and their families have same privileges as those for diplomatic missions and diplomats.

The establishment of the DPRK general mission in Paris marks an important occasion in further developing friendly relations between the DPRK and France.

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Presidential New Year Address

(Continued from page 1)

mate relations between the leaders of Korea and China have further deepened, and the traditional Korea-China friendship has developed in depth.

As in the past, so also in the future, our party and the government of the Republic will work hard to promote friendship and solidarity with all the socialist countries of the world and to develop economic and technical interchange and cooperation with them.

Last year our friendly and cooperative relations with the Third World countries including the non-aligned nations made further progress.

Heads of state and high-ranking delegations of many Third World countries visited our country, and a number of our delegations visited numerous countries. As a result, the external relations of our Republic extended, and the bonds of friendship between our people and the peoples of newly-emerging countries became closer.

Last year, in an effort to effect South-South cooperation, our party and the government of the Republic took active measures for cooperation in agriculture with many African countries. This marked a very important event which opened up a new prospect of South-South cooperation.

South-South cooperation is an important matter in abolishing the old international economic order, in establishing a new one and also in bringing economic self-support to the developing countries. If they unite and effect South-South cooperation, the Third World countries will be able to get free from starvation and poverty by solving the food problem without being indebted to big countries. They will also be able to wipe out diseases by developing public health service and successfully solve various difficult and complicated problems arising in the building of a new society.

In future our party and the government of the Republic will develop cooperation and exchange with many more Third World countries in various sectors including agriculture and will strive to broaden South-South cooperation by joining efforts with all the developing countries.

Our party and the government of the Republic will develop friendly relations, on the principle of equality and mutual benefit, with all countries which respect our country's sovereignty and take a friendly approach to us.

Our people set store by peace and want to live in a peaceful world. In firm unity with all the peace-loving peoples of the world, we shall fight resolutely to check and frustrate the imperialists' reckless manoeuvres to unleash a new war and their policy of military buildup, and to safeguard world peace and security.

On the occasion of the New Year, I extend warm congratulations and greetings to the peoples and friends of all countries including the peoples of the fraternal socialist countries and the non-aligned countries who actively support and encourage the revolutionary cause of our people.

Ending national division and reunifying the country is the most urgent task of our people today.

With a view to easing the tension in our country and creating the preconditions for independent and peaceful national reunification, last year our party and the government of the Republic made a new proposal for a tripartite talk between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States and south Korea and worked hard to put it into effect. Because of its justness our proposal for the tripartite talk enjoys full support from all the people in north and south Korea and from our compatriots abroad and has evoked a great response among the world's people.

This proposal has produced no tangible results because the other side has not yet shown a positive attitude to it. But we will continue to make patient efforts to put it into practice.

Since it is a party responsible for the solution of the Korean question, the United States ought to accept our proposal as soon as possible.

We must realize the tripartite talks between our Republic, the United States and south Korea and thus replace the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement so as to ease the tension in our country, remove the danger of a new war and ensure a durable peace.

By means of this talk we will also adopt a declaration of nonaggression between the north and the south, thereby putting an end to the arms race and military confrontation between them and creating conditions and environments for the peaceful reunification of the country.

Last year our party and the government of the Republic strove for contacts and dialogues between the north and the south, in accordance with the noble idea of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity manifested in the July 4 North-South Joint Statement.

Our Republic, which has never forgotten the people in south Korea, took compatriotic measures last year to send the relief goods of best wishes to the flood victims in south Korea. The implementation of these relief measures created an atmosphere of contacts and dialogues between the two parts of the country and made a breach in the barrier which had stood between them for a long time. In this context, north-south negotiations on economic affairs and contacts between Red Cross organizations were effected. This is an event of great significance in easing the tension in our country, in achieving national harmony and unity and in paving the way to peaceful national reunification.

Active dialogues and extensive cooperation and exchange between the north and the south will enable them to join efforts to develop the national economy in a coordinated way and attain national prosperity in all spheres. Our party and the government of the Republic will make every sincere effort to ensure that the negotiations on economic affairs and Red Cross talks which have been held on our initiative after a long interval will bear good fruit, and that extensive negotiations and many-sided cooperation and exchange between the two parts of the country will become a reality.

If the north-south dialogues proceed successfully to meet the expectations of the people and in accordance with the idea of national reunification, these will develop gradually onto higher-level talks and, further, culminate in high-level political negotiations between north and south.

The people in the northern half of the Republic and south Korea and all the overseas compatriots must realize as soon as possible the national aspiration for the country's reunification by achieving great national unity in the spirit of the July 4 North-South Joint Statement and by struggling with the concerted effort of the whole nation.

Last year the youths and students and other people in south Korea valiantly fought to bring independence and democracy to the south Korean society and to hasten national reunification. I should like to extend firm solidarity and brotherly support and encouragement to the just struggle of the patriotic youths and students and the rest of the people in south Korea.

This year the Koreans in Japan greet the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan). This year the workers of the Chongryun and other compatriots in Japan must work hard to strengthen the Chongryun organization, develop its patriotic work to a higher stage and to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of the homeland in firm unity with all the other overseas compatriots.

Comrades,

Last year our people launched a powerful campaign to create "the speed of the 80s" in hearty response to the party's militant call and made a great success in socialist economic construction.

Thanks to the devoted efforts of our heroic working class and the rest of the working people who are boundlessly faithful to the party and the revolution, last year's national economic plan was fulfilled successfully, the internal structure of many sectors of the national economy further improved and productive capacity increased considerably.

Last year those who had been mobilized in the great nature transformation projects and the city constructors completed large-scale difficult works successfully and erected many monumental edifices. The heroic constructors of the Nampo Lock Gate, the Taechon Power Station and the northern railway sped up their building operations by bravely overcoming unfavourable natural conditions in a high revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, and fully displayed the indomitable fighting spirit of the Korean youth loyal to the party's call.

Last year our industrious agricultural working people, under the leadership of the party, triumphantly reached the goal of ten million tons of grain by thoroughly implementing the Juche farming method. This brilliant success in agriculture clearly demonstrates the correctness of our party's agricultural policy and the invincible vitality of our socialist agricultural system.

I express my warm thanks to all the people — the workers, farmers, soldiers and working intellectuals — who made last year great achievements in all spheres of the revolution and construction by giving full play to their loyalty to the party and the revolution.

1985 is a meaningful year that greets the 40th anniversaries of fatherland liberation and our party's founding.

It is already 40 years since the historic cause of national liberation was achieved and our party was founded — the events which enveloped the whole country with seething joy and happiness. During the past 40 years our party and people have traversed a revolutionary path of shining victories and glory and built a people's paradise good to live in on this land of forefathers.

This year we must give rise to an upturn in the revolution and construction so as to highlight the 40th anniversaries of fatherland liberation and party founding as a great festival of victors.

The Workers' Party of Korea is a seasoned general staff of our revolution. This year when we will celebrate its 40th anniversary, we must further strengthen this glorious party and add lustre to its magnificence.

All the party members and working people must firmly arm themselves with our party's revolutionary idea and resolutely struggle to achieve the revolutionary cause of Juche under the banner of the party.

Greeting the 40th anniversary of national liberation this year, we must further increase the might of our socialist system which has been set up and developed by hard-fought struggle and must display its superiority to the full.

If we are to strengthen the might of our socialist system, we must vigorously carry on the three revolutions — ideological, technical and cultural. By forcefully pushing ahead with the technical and cultural revolutions simultaneously while giving definite priority to the ideological revolution, we should make long strides in revolutionizing, working-classizing and intellectualizing all members of society and in making the national economy Juche-oriented, modern and scientifically-based.

An efficient construction of the socialist economy is a guarantee for increasing the might of the socialist system and for giving full play to its advantages.

The Tenth Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea discussed the national economic development plan for 1985 and appealed to the whole party and all the people to fight to implement the plan.

All party organizations, the entire party membership and the working people must bring a new turn in socialist economic construction this year by working hard to implement the decision of the Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee.

This year we must keep the mining industry and the railway transport well ahead of all other sectors, sharply increase the output of iron and steel and keep production going steadily at a high level by efficiently operating all factories and enterprises.

The agricultural sector must make vigorous efforts to consolidate the success achieved last year and develop agricultural production onto a new stage. The workers in this sector must strive to improve seed production, increase the fertility of soil, modernize agricultural production and expand the area under cultivation.

The superiority of the socialist system must be shown in the people's standard of living. This year we must markedly improve the people's standard of living by mobilizing the existing productive potential and all other possibilities to the full. We should ensure a full operation of all light industrial factories so as to increase the output of high-quality consumer goods, and set up a large number of daily necessities workshops and workteams in factories and enterprises and also widely organize home workteams and sideline workteams in towns, workers' districts and cooperative farms so as to increase the output of daily necessities including miscellaneous goods and foodstuffs.

In order to construct the socialist economy successfully, we need to improve the direction of economic affairs and the management of enterprises. The officials in charge of the economic sectors should give definite priority to political work over all other work as required by the Taean work system and properly use economic levers to facilitate the correct application of a cost-accounting system, thereby managing the economy in a scientific and efficient way.

The revolutionary tasks facing us this year are very honourable and worthwhile, and require the whole party and all the people to make strenuous efforts. All the party members and the working people must rise to the occasion as one and fight courageously to adorn the eventful year of 1985 as the most brilliant year in the history of our country.

Let us all endeavour energetically to win a new victory in the building of socialism and to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, firmly united behind the Party Central Committee, under the unfurled banner of the Juche idea.

Message of Greetings to Chongryun Chairman

President Kim Il Sung sent a message of greetings on January 1 to Han Duk Su, Chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun), greeting the New Year 1985.

The message says that last year Chongryun cemented its ranks both organizationally and ideologically and creditably carried out its noble patriotic tasks, smashing in time all kinds of subversive manoeuvres and sabotages of reactionaries and their vicious ideological offensive under the complicated situation. It continues:

Chongryun has made great achievements in the work of firmly establishing the ideological system of Juche among organizations at all levels and training functionaries and compatriots to be true patriots of Juche type boundlessly faithful to the country and the party, upholding the party's policy.

Relying itself on the warm revolutionary zeal and patriotic devotion of functionaries and compatriots, Chongryun energetically waged a mass political struggle to implement the policies of our party and the Government of the DPRK for national reunification and actively supported and encouraged the just struggle of the south Korean people to greatly contribute to the acceleration of the cause of national reunification.

I highly appraise the successful fulfilment of honorary tasks facing Chongryun by its functionaries and compatriots in Japan with unbounded loyalty to the homeland and the party last year.

Pointing out that great successes were registered last year by the people in the fatherland in the struggle for hastening the complete victory of socialism and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and modelling the whole of society on the Juche idea, the message further says:

In south Korea, too, students and people of all walks of life vigorously waged mass struggles to achieve national sovereignty and democratic rights and realise the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, dealing a heavy blow at nation-splittists within and without.

The energetic external activities of our party and the Government of the DPRK brought friendly and cooperative relations with fraternal socialist countries to a new higher stage and further strengthened solidarity with non-aligned and Third World countries.

Noting that the New Year 1985 is a meaningful year which greets the 40th anniversary of the country's liberation and our party's founding and the 30th anniversary of the formation of Chongryun, the message stresses:

The entire functionaries of Chongryun and compatriots in Japan should more thoroughly implement the party's policy of imbuing the ranks of Chongryun with the Juche idea to make this year a historic year in which new upsurge is effected in the patriotic work of Chongryun.

Chairman Han's New Year Message To Our Readers

As we ring in New Year 1985, I, in the name of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun), extend my New Year greetings to the readers of The People's Korea.

I would like also to express my heartfelt thanks to the peace-loving people the world over who have rendered active support and encouragement to the Korean people at home and abroad in their struggle for national reunification, the overriding goal of the entire nation.

Last year, the people in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea achieved enormous successes in socialist construction under the wise leadership of President Kim Il Sung, great leader of the Korean people and Mr. Kim Jong Il, dear leader of the nation.

The working people achieved enormous successes in the fulfilment of the tasks of the Second Seven-Year Plan (1978-1984), laying solid foundations for the attainment of a 10-point target for the 1980s.

Particularly, the DPRK hit a record of 11 million tons in grain production thanks to the energetic efforts of the Korean farmers to apply the Juche farming method.

The DPRK conducted active external activities last year.

The visit of President Kim Il Sung to the Soviet Union and East European countries made a great contribution toward strengthening friendship and unity among socialist countries and toward safeguarding world peace and security, and raised the international prestige of the DPRK.

The January proposal for three-way talks between Pyongyang, Washington and Seoul was an epoch-making overture aimed at reducing tensions on the Korean Peninsula and at creating favourable conditions for the peaceful settlement of the Korean reunification question.

The three-way talks proposal won world-wide support because of its justness and practicability.

Support came not only from the people of socialist and non-aligned countries but from people of various social strata in capitalist countries.

There was an unprecedented thaw between Pyongyang and Seoul. The successful delivery of northern relief supplies to south Korean flood victims was the greatest event ever in the history of Korea's 40-year division.

Pyongyang's overture opened the door for the first north-south economic talks and for a resumption of the long-stalled Red Cross talks.

Last year, the south Korean people waged valiant struggles for democracy and reunification, hitting a hard blow to the rule of Gen. Chon Du Hwan.

Many organizations embracing a broad cross section of people were formed to promote a more vigorous democratic campaign.

Korean citizens in Japan, too, staged their patriotic struggle for the country's reunification.

They conducted a 5 million signature collection campaign "for the removal of the danger of war from Korea and Asia and for an early realization of the three-way talks." The total number of signatories reached 6,342,130.

On the other hand, the Korean question drawn the attention of the world public, and unprecedentedly strong and firm solidarity with the Korean people was expressed for the cause of Korean reunification throughout the world.

An instance of this is that 68 delegations from 36 countries and 10 international organizations took part in the International Conference for the Peace and Reunification of Korea held in Paris in March last year and adopted an appeal.

Moreover, last year, delegates and delegations of Chongryun participated in the 6th Conference of Solidarity Organization of Asian, African People in Algiers and nine other international conferences.

These conferences called for U.S. withdrawal from south Korea with its nuclear weapons deployed there and strived to strengthen the solidarity of the peoples of various countries of the world with the Korean people.

In fact, last year was a really significant year when the peaceful reunification of Korea was promoted and our solidarity with the progressive people of the world was strengthened.

This year, we'll celebrate the 40th anniversaries of Korean liberation and of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea.

We, Korean nationals here, also will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun), our only organization by which to express our will and protect our interests.

Greeting the New Year, 1985, the Korean people will make further efforts to fulfill the 10 long-range objectives, and really a new turning point in the reunification of Korea.

Today the situation of the Korean Peninsula is very favourable for the Korean people's just struggle.

However, the U.S. and the Chon Du Hwan junta are still trying to aggravate tension in Korea by making new maneuvers.

As is widely known, the increasing U.S.-Japan-south Korean military alliance and nuclear weapons deployed in south Korea are main obstacles in the way of the Korean people, threatening the peace of the world and the Korean Peninsula, and a dreadful disaster of nuclear war.

What is most important for the peaceful reunification of Korea is to create conditions favorable for peace on the Korean Peninsula by easing tension there.

We, the Korean people, are determined to redouble our efforts to conclude a peace treaty with the U.S. and issue a non-aggression declaration with the south.

The south Korean people will continue to struggle against U.S. imperialism and for democracy and national reunification.

We, Korean nationals in Japan will create a historic turn in our patriotic movement for independent and peaceful reunification and celebrate the 30th birthday of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan with our all-out political zeal and great success.

I hope that the readers of The People's Korea will support the Korean people's struggle for the reunification of their country.

I sincerely wish you good health and happiness.

Han Duk Su,
Chairman of the
Central Standing
Committee of
Chongryun
January 1, 1985
Tokyo

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South Korea's debt is still growing. Warning noises are coming from the ultra-cautious Japanese banks. Led by Bank of Tokyo, they are criticising South Korea or returning to the money markets too often. Brazil was once thought of as a model debtor, they argue, yet many banks now wish they had been more cautious in lending to it.

South Korea's technocrats are well aware of the dangers of debt amidst economic slowdown, and are steeling the economy to withstand tough times ahead. Monetary control has brought consumer-price inflation down from the 20-30% annual rates of 1979-81 to 2-3% this year. To avoid any resurgence, money supply growth will be held to 9-10% next year, down from around 15% in 1983 and 10% in 1984.

South Korea is trying to wean its companies from dependence on borrowing and move them towards equity issues. One step was the successful launch in October of a stock fund for foreign investors, the Korea Fund, which has prompted a rash of interest in South Korea among institutional investors. Another step has been to relax controls on foreign direct investment, a move that helped encourage General Motors to invest in South Korea's car industry. A third step is the stockmarket quote for Hyundai Construction and Engineering, the flagship of South Korea's biggest industrial group, after years of government cajoling.

South Korea is as vulnerable as its exporters are ambitious. A third of its exprots go to the United States, so slower growth there will hurt. Finance ministry officials say that every one percentage point rise in dollar interest rates adds $250m a year to South Korea's debt-servicing bill. They hope the recent softening in American short-term interest rates will continue and be fully reflected in lower long-term rates.

It is estimated that protectionism costs South Korea roughly $1 billion in potential exports per year, and it is getting worse as South Korean colour televisions and steel hit American and other restraints. Most of all, South Korea has seemed vulnerable to political turmoil, but there are hopes that better relations with North Korea are budding at last.

DPRK Diplomatic Development in 1984

By Kwon Ye Suk

Special to The People's Korea

Last year, the DPRK engaged in active diplomatic conduct all over the globe.

Firstly, on Jan. 10 the DPRK proposed tripartite talks for easing tensions on the Korean Peninsula, for guaranteeing the peace and for creating a precondition of a peaceful solution of the Korean problem.

On May 4-11, General Secretary Hu Yaobang of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China visited Korea. It was followed by a 47-day tour of the USSR and European socialist countries of President Kim Il Sung (from May 16 to July 1). He also visited China unofficially in November.

Meanwhile, in September, Chairman Ishibashi Masashi of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Socialist Party, visited Korea in September.

Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam visited the USA to attend the foreign ministers' conference of non-aligned countries held in New York.

Looking back at 1984, we can say the DPRK undertook an omnidirectional globe-trotting diplomatic conduct.

Follows a roundup of the main diplomatic activities of the DPRK last year:

Presidential Trip

The biggest event in diplomatic conduct was a 47-day long train tour of the USSR and European socialist countries by President Kim Il Sung.

He visited eight countries from May 16 to July 1 for the longest tour he had had in recent years.

He revisited the USSR for the first time in 23 years, then Poland, Democratic Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary for the first in 28 years, Bulgaria in 9 years, and Romania and Yugoslavia in 4 years.

First of all, state leaders of the USSR and European socialist countries could not suppress admiration for splendidly having solved the question of successor of the Korean revolutionary cause and expressed their envy at the bright future of the Korean revolution being firmly guaranteed.

President Kim Il Sung had fruitful talks with the high-ranking officials of the countries visited in a comradely and friendly atmosphere.

They repeatedly expressed their active support for the proposals for Korea's peaceful reunification including the three-way talks initiative by the DPRK.

Heads of the host countries warmly welcomed President Kim Il Sung. Especially, when he arrived in Moscow, the USSR leadership showed a hearty welcome of the kind not accorded other foreign visitors.

Moreover, his foreign visit opened up radiant vistas for further expanded economic, scientific and technical exchange and cooperation with the socialist countries.

In Democratic Germany, a treaty on friendship and cooperation and an agreement to develop economic, scientific and technical cooperation till 1990 were signed between two countries. In Bulgaria, a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the DPRK and Bulgaria, and an agreement to develop economic, scientific and technical cooperation between two government were signed.

In the meantime, President Kim Il Sung visited China from Nov. 26 to 28 last year. It was an unofficial visit on the invitation of General Secretary Hu Yaobang of the Central Committee of the CPC, who had visited the DPRK last June.

He met and had talks with Mr. Deng Xiaoping, Chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the CPC, on Nov. 26 and with General Secretary Hu Yaobang on Nov. 26 and 27. They discussed the problem of further developing friendship relation with two parties and two countries and other international issues of a common concern. They were perfectly agreed as to all the problems discussed.

Last year, a documentary film "Official State Visits to the USSR and European Socialist Countries of President Kim Il Sung" was released in all parts of Japan. On the screen was the 72-year-old President with a perpetual broad smile.

Japan Socialist Party Visits Korea

A delegation of the Japan Socialist Party headed by Chairman Ishibashi Masashi visited Korea from Sep. 18 to 22.

According to the delegation, they received exceptional treatment in the Republic.

President Kim Il Sung, in talks with Chairman Ishibashi, emphasized justness of the three-way talks proposal and said he couldn't understand why America doesn't try to accept the tripartite talks which had been proposed by the U.S. originally.

He pointed out that the Reagan administration is making a great fuss about a false "threat from north" and categorically denied any intention to "invade" south Korea, "no matter what circumstances might occur involving the Korean Peninsula."

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Ishibashi Masashi had talks 4 times including a 4-hour individual talk and working-level talks between the WPK and the JSP.

Foreign Minister Visits U.S.

Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam visited the U.S. to participate in the foreign ministers' conference of non-aligned countries held in New York.

He stayed in New York for about one month from mid-September to mid-October.

It is for the first time in seven years that Foreign Minister of the DPRK visited the US since the then Foreign Minister Ho Dam visited there in 1977.

Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam was active in energetic diplomatic conduct, having talks with UN secretary-general and foreign ministers of foreign countries including China and the USSR.

During his visit, he had an exclusive interview with the Washington Post on Oct. 6. "I would like to clearly state that we are willing to consult and discuss the confidence-building measures raised by Ronald Reagan in his United Nations speech, together with other peaceful issues, in three-way talks of our side, the United States and the south Korean side," Kim said through an interpreter.

A resolution on strengthening South-South cooperation and external economic activity and further developing foreign trade was adopted at the second-day sitting of the Jan. 25-27 Third Session of the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

As clear in the resolution, what is important in implementing the external economic policy of the DPRK is to develop South-South cooperation.

According to the resolution, "In the spirit of South-South cooperation our country built more than 30 factories in 22 countries, conducted irrigation projects in over 20 countries and sent more than 5,000 technicians and experts to more than 50 developing countries in the past period, thus helping them in their building of new society in various domains."

Cooperation has been making remarkable progress in all domains from construction of water-power stations, cement factories and iron works to cultural facilities including schools, hospitals and theatres.

The DPRK placed importance on agricultural cooperation especially to solve the food problem.

Now, more than 60 agricultural technical cooperation parties are present in the developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, according to the noble spirit of the South-South cooperation.

A large number of delegates and delegations from foreign countries visited Korea last year.

President Kim Il Sung personally met various delegations including state leaders of foreign countries and engaged in diplomatic conduct energetically.

He received over 100 delegations. Among them non-aligned and developing countries account for half the number.

Various delegations of the DPRK visited non-aligned and developing countries.

Over a two-month period from April last, a delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK visited African countries including Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire, Cameroon and Seyshelles.

The Korean delegation held discussions on the problem on strengthening South-South cooperation in various countries and published joint statements.

Especially, the DPRK suggested convocation of a South-South summit conference in a joint statement made in Rwanda.

The Meeting of Irrigation Experts of the Coordinators of Non-Aligned Countries for Food and Agriculture was held in Pyongyang from June 16 to 22.

The meeting was attended by delegations or delegates from non-aligned countries and the delegate of the Group of 77 in Rome and the delegate of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Economic Exchange in Diversified Way

The joint venture law adopted in Pyongyang (on Sep. 8) called forth a big echo at home and abroad.

After adoption of the joint venture law, many socialist and capitalist countries expressed hope to set up joint ventures with factories and enterprises in Korea.

France is among the applicants.

Mr. Yun Gi Bok, deputy chairman of the Economic Policy Commission of the DPRK Central People's Committee told a visiting group of Korean businessmen resident in Japan on Oct. 6 and explained the Sep. 8 joint venture law.

He revealed that an agreement was signed with the Campenon Bernard Construction Company of France to build a 50-story hotel in Pyongyang for Franco-Korean joint management.

Deputy Chairman Yun Gi Bok of the Economic Policy Commission of the DPRK Central People's Committee remarked that their policy to build an independent national economy remains unchanged at all, saying "we have developed such interchange and cooperation in diversified and positive ways in accordance with the policy of constructing a self-supporting economy."

He also stressed that the Republic had kept the door open to economic intercourse with foreign countries for many years. The enactment of the joint venture law does not signify any departure from the policy of building an independent national economy.

Pyongyang has developed various forms of economic exchange with more than 100 countries of the five continents.

It is said that with the Administration's Department of External Economic Affairs in charge, a number of laws and regulations are being readied for practical application of the joint venture law, such as regulations for the operation of the joint venture law, law on income taxes for foreigners employed by joint ventures. They are to be unveiled soon.

If such related laws are fixed, joint ventures with foreign countries will be further promoted.

Significance should be attached to a meeting celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Foreign Trade Bank which was held on Sep. 26.

Present at the meeting were more than 120 delegations and delegates from about 50 countries including central banks and foreign trade banks of socialist countries, national banks of the Third World countries and European capitalist countries.

◀ Tens of thousands of Moscow working people warmly welcome President Kim Il Sung on May 23. (KCNA Radiophoto)

1984: Landmark in S. Korean Student Movement

By Li Sang Chil
Special to The People's Korea

A closer look at south Korean student activism in 1984 reveals a remarkable trend which is bound to influence the future political scene. This year, general elections are scheduled for February 12, with a popular one-time presidential contender planning to return to Seoul in January.

An upsurge in student involvement in politics is apparent in the number of reported student protest action, including demonstrations and anti-"government" meetings.

During the first semester, the number reached 443 in 56 universities. (source: "Education Ministry" report dated Aug. 29, quoted by the Kwangju Ilbo)

These compare with the figures in the last three years since Chon's takeover: 52 at 20 universities in 1983, 11 at 10 universities in '82 and 26 at 20 universities in '81.

As of Nov. 10 from the beginning of the second semester in September, student actions only in Seoul totalled 374. (source: the Pusan Ilbo dated Nov. 23).

A police statement, quoted by the Pusan Ilbo said that police captured about 170,000 anti-"government" handbills of 475 kinds.

Sharpening Anti-Japanese Sentiments

The second semester saw new flare-ups against Chon Du Hwan's Japan tour from Sep. 6 to 8 which students denounced as a sellout diplomacy.

His trip galvanized the traditional anti-Japanese sentiments of the south Korean people in parallel with anti-Americanism which had been growing notably since the 1980 Kwangju Uprising.

Chon's trip was badly marred by repeated outbreaks and violent protests involving workers and students. Rallies were held throughout south Korea to burn effigies of the dictator and the Japanese Emperor, Korea's former conqueror, Japanese flags. Rocks were thrown at Japanese Embassy buildings and the Japan Air Line office in Seoul, 77 prominent civic leaders fasted and student demonstrations were organized on and out of campuses, with angry statements issued one after another.

One of Chon's aim in his trip to Japan was to write off the past Japanese crimes against Korea, weaken anti-Japanese feelings and make the population insensitive to Japanese behavior.

Students went the length of singling out Cho Yong Pil, popular singer, for severe criticism as a pro-Japanese who curries favor with the Japanese.

Closer Ties with Workers

One main feature of this year's student movement is expansion of its cooperation and solidarity with other sectors of society. Students now find positive support in trade unions, churches, anti-"government" dissidents and civic organizations.

Civic sophistication and radicalization can be observed in a wide range of demands from campus autonomy to north-south student talks and sports exchanges. Among them are also resignation of Chon Du Hwan and opposition to the 1988 Olympics, trade union freedom and abolishment of facist labour law in their demonstrations of the year. At the time when the demand for north-south student talks was raised, a student of Sung Kyun Kwan University was arrested on Oct. 30 on charges of singing "Song of General Kim Il Sung." (source: the Hankook Ilbo dated Oct. 31)

These show that students give greater weight to labour, living conditions and politics than mere democratization in campus.

Partly figuring in the background is a rising unemployment among college graduates. About two-thirds of prospective universities' graduates in 1985 will find no job after their graduation, disclosed by the Chungang Ilbo, one of local dailies, dated Nov. 12.

A typical joint student-worker action in case is the Sep. 19 demonstration in Seoul involving more than 200 clothing workers, students and citizens.

Another instance took place at the Pyonghwa Market in downtown Seoul on Oct. 12, involving more than 1,700 students of 11 universities including Seoul National, Yonsei, Koryo and Sung Kyun Kwan universities and workers.

During the street demonstration, the students and workers clashed with riot police, demanding democratization of society and freedom of independent labour union activity.

Student-worker solidarity becomes quite noticeable when hundreds of workers and students staged an anti-"government" demonstration in Seoul on Nov. 13 to mark the 14th anniversary of the suicide of Chon Tae Il, a young crusader for better working conditions. That day, students of 15 universities in Seoul expressed solidarity with the labour movement and held memorial services for Chon Tae Il (Seoul dailies dated Nov. 14)

Student activism gained a major boost from civic forces.

The Council of the Promotion for Democracy, headed by Kim Dae Jung, former presidential candidate and Kim Yong Sam, now-defunct opposition New Democratic Party president, on Oct. 25 issued a statement which supports students struggle for democracy and denounces the Chon junta.

Six south Korean democratic organizations on Oct. 17 also made public a statement in support of students struggle for democracy and reunification.

They were "Minjung (People's) Council for a Democratic Movement", and "National Conference for Democratic Unification" headed by Rev. Moon Ik Hwan, "Korean Catholic Social Movement Association", "Korean Ecumenical Youth Council", "Catholic Student's Association of Korea" and "National Youth Association for a Democratic Movement".

The statement said: "We believe the students' demands are something that intensified the actual heart's desire of the citizens and that the cause of the students taking to the streets is that the media, the legislature, and the courts, being paralyzed by the regime's tyranny, are deprived of their functions in a ghost image of a political system."

A recent self-immolation by Pak

(Continued on page 6)

Over 2,000 students of Seoul National University stone riot police on Oct. 10 in an attempt to march off campus and stage a street demonstration protesting spying on campus activity. Riot police fire tear gas to drive back the students into their school. (UPI)

Police forcibly remove students from the "Democratic Justice Party" headquarters in downtown Seoul on Nov. 15 after a 12 hour sit-in and load them onto buses to be taken to police stations. (The Korea Herald, Nov. 15, 1984)

South Korean students take protest action on and off the campuses almost every day demanding the resignation of Gen. Chon Du Hwan who seized power in a violent manner. Photo shows students of Seoul's prestigious Yonsei University throwing rocks at riot police during the April 17 on-campus demonstration.

No students are seen in a classroom of Yonsei University where students are supposed to be. Most students of the university boycott classes for the third consecutive day on Nov. 8. (Hankook Ilbo, Nov. 9, 1984)

(Continued from page 5)

Jong Man, 36, a taxi driver, who burnt himself to death on Nov. 30 to demand workers right to existence, sparked further radicalization of students and workers, as Chon Tae Il's suicide 14 years ago did.

Workers and students combined forces, threatening the "government" as it is well aware that massive worker-student uprisings in Pusan and Masan in 1979 destroyed the "Yushin" dictator ship of Pak Jong Hi.

National Student Organization Formed

Not only Seoul but local cities such as Pusan, Kwangju and Taegu were scenes of repeated violence on-campus and street demonstrations and rallies. Anti-"government" student actions show signs of preconceived planning and coordination among school – a major development.

Suspicion becomes strong in the following case:

1. On Oct. 8, day of sports exchange including soccer, basket ball and baseball between Koryo and Yonsei universities in Seoul, more than 10,000 students of two universities took to the streets in protest against the "government" in the afternoon, after base ball games between the two were over on the Seoul stadium.

2. On Nov. 14, 264 boy and girl students from Yonsei, Koryo and Sung Kyun Kwan universities occupied the main office of the ruling "Democratic Justice Party" demanding an interview with party chairman Kwon Ik Hyun and full labor rights and an end to "government" interference in campus activities. Ten of them occupied the fifth floor, while other students rushed to the conference room on the ninth floor and went into a sit-in after locking themselves.

The effective 12 hour control of heavily guarded ruling party office by students of three different schools indicate an elaborate planning and tactic coordination.

3. Massive midterm examination boycott at Seoul National, Yonsei and other universities is another indication of inter-school coordination.

A Seoul University statement (source: UPI on Oct. 27) said that 12,500 students were scheduled to take examinations on Oct. 22, but an estimated 80 percent failed to show up for the tests.

Given these facts, there was no overestimating the long-term implication of the formation of a national student organization in Seoul on Nov. 5 to coordinate student protest on umbrella body, which consists of 42 universities. The formation of "The Students' Alliance for Democracy and against Dictatorship" was declared when about 2,000 student representatives of 20 universities got together at Yonsei University on Nov. 5 and burned five effigies including Gen. Chon Du Hwan and Kwon Iee Hyok, "Education Minister".

South Korean authorities allege that anti-"government" movements on campus were nothing but isolated incidents involving some radical students, but, these facts tell a different story.

Gory Crackdown

The south Korean authorities, which mobilized tanks to subdue in the 1980 Kwangju Uprising, with more than 2,000 citizens killed, threaten to use military forces if civic and student obedience go on unabated.

University campuses were virtually wrapped in many students arrested and beaten and tear gas, arrested girl demonstrators raped by police officers. Arrested students were conscripted for disciplining action in military barracks, some killed.

Scandalous repressed action came in the Oct. 24 movement of about 6,400 riot police onto the campus of Seoul National University to break up an anti-"government" movement and mid-term exam boycotts.

Summary trials and tortures are routine tactic employed by the Chon junta.

Police said a 2,600-stormy police force on Oct. 10 clashed with over 2,000 student demonstrators of Seoul University and used 254 rounds of "apple bombs", 1,083 rounds of MPG 1000, 192 rounds of clusters which fire 64 bullets at a time and 152 liter of tear gas. The ammunition thus expended cost about $60,200 according to a police estimate.

According to an estimate made clear by The New Korea Times, published in Canada, the Chon junta spent 44,53 million won in cracking down upon a demonstration of students which took place at Seoul National University on July 7. This amount is equal to monthly wages of some 450 average workers.

But, it seemed as if the more south Korean authorities suppress them, the more students become emboldend.

Prospects

In the year, student struggles become more radicalized and organized than ever.

Students used not only rocks but fire bottles and sticks when they clashed with riot police on demonstrations who fired tear gas. They even attack police offices and armored cars.

According to the Seoul city police bureau, as of Nov. 10 since the beginning of the second term in September, 493 policemen were beaten by student protesters.

On Nov. 14, 264 students of Yonsei, Koryo and Sung Kyun Kwan universities occupied the main office of the ruling "Democratic Justice Party" and on Sep. 24 about 350 students of Seoul National University occupied the "Democratic Korea Party" to press for full democracy, risking arrest and imprisonment which certainly cost their future jobs and otherwise elite career.

A widely shared view of the local students is that a democratic society and reunification are placed above their own personal success or worldly fame.

Even the head of an opposition "Democratic Korea Party" accused Gen. Chon on Nov. 19 of clinging to obsolete laws to refuse further democratization. Opposition leader Yoo Chi Song told a news conference on Cheju Island that the Chon junta and the ruling party would face a grave situation if they resorted only to physical crackdowns without solving the basic problems.

We can see students' resolve to fight to the bitter end in their statements and declarations. A declaration issued on Nov. 3 by the Students' Council for Democracy and against Dictatorship on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the Kwangju Student Movement in 1929, said in part:

– Let us fight resolutely for amendments to or abolition of fascist laws including the labour law, the law on assembly and demonstration, the law for management of natural resources and the basic law of the press and speech

– We fight to the end to protest against the suppressions to mass movements and trade unions, including the democratic Chonggye and Daewoo trade unions.

– We actively participate in the struggle of farmers for an increased purchase price of autumn grains for their improved living conditions.

– We demand government-inspired mass media organ of public opinion stop carrying distorted news and that reporters working for them to be awakened to the reality and take the lead in the movement for democratic speech.

– We keep a strict watch on corruption in the coming election and demand that the ban imposed on the political activities of certain figures be removed.

– We will smash any plot of a constitutional reform for a longer term of presidency.

– We demand the resignation of dictator Chon Du Hwan's government responsible for traitorous acts, political injustice, corruption and violence.

– We call on all democratic groups to actively participate in our struggle.

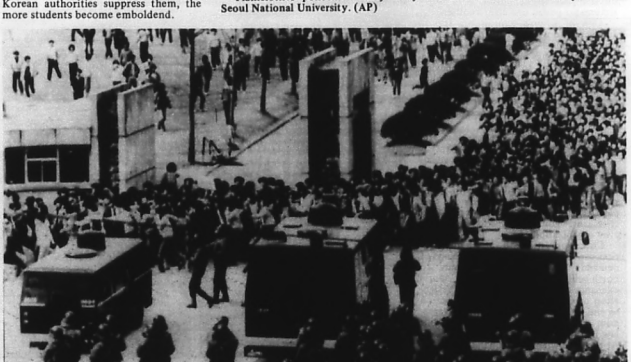
– We, democratic students, declare solemnly that we will fight resolutely until the day of people's victory.

Fellow students, let us close our ranks with determination!

Let us smash the anti-democratic plot of the military dictator!

Long live national reunification!
Long live democracy!
Long live people's victory!

Plainclothes policemen carry away a demonstrator on the campus of the Seoul National University. (AP)



Nearly one-thousand of Yonsei University students demanding full freedom for their campus activity and democratic reforms, march around in front of their school's main gate on April 20. (UPI Radiophoto)

S. Korea's Labour Movement in 1984

By Kim Chong I
Special to The People's Korea

There is an important change taking place in situation in the south Korean labour movement in 1984.

As of Nov. 20 the number of violent labour disputes reached 106 cases, an 20% increase as compared with the last year's 88, of which walkouts amounted to 59, sit-ins and demonstrations respectively to 42 and 3 cases, according to a data recently made public by the south Korean labour authorities.

One of the distinctive in the labour movement in 1984 was the formation of the (south) Korean Workers' Welfare Committee on March 10 which aimed at independently speaking for the exploited workers and defending their rights to existence, marking an epoch-making development in the south Korean labour movement.

On April 8 the Chonggye Labour Union, once forcibly disbanded in 1981, declared its birth at Myongdong Cathedral in spite of severe suppression by the authorities.

In July a signature campaign was launched to demand revision of the current vicious labour laws by the Korean Christian Council for Peace and Justice.

A hunger strike was also waged by Chonggye textile workers at the end of September calling for the revision of the vicious labour laws.

Since a new semester came with September, strong solidarity with fighting workers was expressed by university students, as in the Sept. 19 and Oct. 12 demonstrations, they marched shoulder to shoulder with Chonggye workers in Seoul.

Korean Workers' Welfare Committee

The (south) Korean Workers' Welfare Committee was formed by the expelled workers and former members of labour unions with strong support from broad masses.

They had been purged on charges of "sowing seeds of social unrest" in accordance with the suppressive policy against the labour movement during the period of yushin in the 1970s and even after Chon Du Hwan's seizure of power in 1980.

The committee is committed to close cooperation and unity among workers at each enterprise, restoration of labour union activities and defence of workers' right to existence.

According to a Korean newspaper in West Germany "Urinara (Our Country)", attending the inagural Seoul meeting of the committee, which was held Hongjedong Cathedral on the occasion of Labour Day, were some 1,200 people of purged union workers from Wong Poong Textile, Koryo Fur, Dong-Il Textile, YH Trading, Sotong Control Data Co., Chonggye Textile and other religious and dissident figures.

Elected president of the committee was Pan Yong Sok, former branch chief of the Wong Poong Labour Union who was expelled from the company by means of the "purification measure" in 1980, and the Rev. Chi Hak Sun named its chief director.

Its declaration made public at the inagural meeting urges the following tasks: 1) to highten and strengthen independence, unity and solidarity in the labour movement by overcoming the limitations of unorganized and isolated activities so far; 2) to speak for and defend the rights of 8 million workers by way of a new form of labour movement; 3) to advance toward glorious victory for democracy, independence and national reunification.

The committee seeks to overcome weakness of the last labour movement which could not extricate itself from isolated activities at each enterprise, and to expand their forces with their united strength in protest against fascist suppression by the authorities, and to play a more militant role in the labour movement for a new development.

Chonggye Labour Union Reorganized

The Chonggye Textile Labour Union, played an important role in the 70s' labour movement, was reorganized independently on April 8.

The union was originally formed in 1972 by textile workers at small factories dispersed at eight markets including Peace Market and Donghwa Market on Chonggyechon 5th and 6th streets in Seoul.

The Chonggye Union succeeded the noble will of Chon Tae Il, who burnt himself to death on Nov. 13, 1970, shouting "We are not machines!" and "Abide by the law on labour standard!" in protest against the tragic conditions of south Korean workers who were exploited as a victim of the late Pak Jung Hi's industrialization policy.

The Chonggye Union played a militant role in the labour movement as a body of those workers who fought for their right to existence.

The union was ordered disbanded on Jan. 6, 1981 on charges of violation of the "national security law" and then, the union office was forcibly closed by some 500 police forces.

Comparison with Movement in the 70s

The Chon Tae Il incident was a sign of mounting resistence of the workers who were denied a slightest share in the "fruit" of industrialization.

The first characteristic of the labour movement in the 70s is that labour unions were successively formed, with workers' right to unity gained.

It is partly proved in the fact that organized workers had grown in number to 646,000 during 10 years from 1970-1980, almost doube for 345,000 during the previous 10 years from 1961-1970.

Secondly, workers' struggle had been strengthened with various slogans put up including wage hikes, opposition, to illegal layoff, conclusion of collective contracts, payment of wages in arrears and democratization of labour unions.

Thirdly, the labour movement had begun to show for the first time in the 70s a full scale and nation-wide forms in close cooperation of other movement for democratization and human rights, and played an important role in the struggle for democratization of society.

However, the south Korean labour movement in the 70s had been its growth checked in general under pressure applied by the officially sponsored established labour unions led by the "General Federation of South Korean Labour Unions."

Furthermore, since his seizure of power in 1980 in bloody coups Chon Du Hwan tried desperately to disorganize the labour movement.

He, first of all, forcibly disbanded 106 branch offices of labour unions under the pretext of "social purification" with 191 executives of independent unions expelled.

The labour law was then entirely revised into the "law on consultative meeting between employer and worker" which banned "interference of the third man" in a bid to totally destroy the labour movement.

Under this condition, a lot of democratic labour unions were made illegal including Chonggye Union, Taechang Textile and Wong Poong unions in 1980.

Expelled workers amounted to 3,000 in number during 4 years since the total revision of the labour law.

Many of them still now are put on the blacklist of those not allowed to be reemployed.

Cooperation with Various Circles

Cabbies in Taegu waging a demonstration on May 25 calling for "Reduce our payments to the company!", "Don't obstruct the activities of the trade union!" and etc. (Photo from Dong-A Ilbo)

Over 2,000 south Korean workers and students jammed on Sept. 19 in downtown Seoul and fought with riot police firing tear gas canister, calling for the revision of the vicious Labour Laws and freedom of labour movement. (Photo from Japanese TBS TV)

South Korean labour movement became more active in close unity with religious circle as well as the student movement as seen in a series of events including the formation of the Korean Workers' Welfare Committee and reconstruction of the Chonggye Labour Union and struggle of Wong Poong workers.

On April 8 Chonggye workers held a meeting to reconstruct the formerly disbanded labour union at the Myongdong Cathedral, which some 600 workers in show of growing solidarity with other democratic forces.

Moves to reconstruct independent labour unions showed a new upsurge as a labour union was formed at a major shoes production factory Esquire on Mar. 28 and a general meeting was held to establish a trade union at Ehwa Textile on April 27.

While pushing forward the struggle for reconstruction of trade unions as the basis of the labour movement, south Korean workers waged various forms of struggle including hunger strikes, all night sit-ins and demonstrations jointly with students and other religious forces calling for abolition of the ill-famed "blacklist" system with which active member of trade unions are threatened to be expelled from factories (once they are expelled, they have rare chance to be employed by other enterprises with the "blacklist").

Such struggles were waged by expelled workers in Ra-ri, North Cholla Province and Inchon since the outset of January.

Responding to this move, on Jan. 19, the countermeasure committee on the blacklist issue in the democratic labour movement (The Rev. Mun Ik Hwan was elected chairman) was founded and is continuously waging a struggle of solidarity calling for revision of the labour law and ban of abusing the "blacklist".

The National Student Federation for Democratization which was recently formed set out as its major goal of the struggle the revision of the vicious labour laws.

Students pay a special attention to the labour movement as seen in the designation of a "period for democratization" by Yonsei University students on the occasion of the 14 anniversary of the self-imolation of Chon Tae Il, and actively joined in the joint struggle with workers in forms of lectures, joint demonstrations and sit-in strikes.

On Sept. 19 a total of 2,000 Chonggye textile workers including a large number of university students in Seoul staged a fierce street demonstration downtown Seoul calling for not only economic slogans as a hike of wages and shortening of working hours but political demands including "Abolish the vicious labour laws" and "Guarantee freedom of labour movement", clashing with riot police.

On Oct. 12 some 1,700 workers and students waged a demonstration when they were obstructed in attending a meeting to gain legitimacy of the Chonggye Textile Labour Union.

(Continued on page 8)

Chon Du Hwan Hinders Democratic Process of S. Korea: DPRK Public Organization

The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland on December 23 published a memorandum accusing the Chon Du Hwan junta of laying a stumbling block in the way of the democratic development of south Korean society and the peaceful reunification of the country.

Here are excerpts from the memorandum:

C.C., DFRF is publishing this memorandum indicting the Chon Du Hwan group of its fascist crimes, scathingly denouncing in the name of the entire people the south Korean military fascist dictators for creating grave obstacles to the democratic development of south Korean society and the peaceful reunification of the country.

Chon Group Turns S. Korea into Police State Filled with Evil Laws

The present rulers of south Korea have turned south Korea into a huge prison by fabricating fascist laws and repressive machines.

Having built a more truculent military fascist system after the "October 26 incident" in 1979, the south Korean military fascist clique malevised the existing "laws" under the "yusin system" of the former dictator on harsher fascist lines and enacted many evil laws in a bid to block the action of broad segments of the people calling for the democratisation of society and a peaceful reunification of the country.

They cooked up a new "constitution" which would underlie fascist laws proclaiming even "emergency alert duty order A" in addition to "emergency martial law" and throwing out a watertight cordon and then had 215 bills carried in five months.

This means 1.4 bills were faked up every day on an average including the holidays.

South Korea's military fascist system is maintained with vast and bestical repressive machines.

The south Korean military fascist clique renamed the notorious "Central Intelligence Agency" under the "yusin system" "security planning board" and largely increased the number of its staffers and agents to 420,000 (as of 1982) from 300,000.

The "security command" with 20,000 staffers and 220,000 agents was reorganized into a dual repressive machine which can perform the function of information-collecting and inspection not only in the army but among the civilians.

The military fascist clique stations and 3,117 police sub-stations and booths.

They increased the police that numbered 66,000 at the end of the "yusin" rule to 150,000 as of May 1984 and plan to steadily beef it up by 1987.

They put hundreds of thousands of "assistant police" in the foreground of human rights repression and plan to increase the number of the "police aids" by 9,500 in 1985.

They also built a large concentration camp extending 860,000 *pyong*, the largest prison in the world, in Chinbomyon, Chongsong County, North Kyongsang Province, not contented with several dozen prisons and over 600 reformatories and detention houses all over south Korea.

Harsh Suppression of Democratic Forces, Including Students and Workers

The south Korean military fascist clique resort to harsh repression and brutal torture of people calling for independence against the U.S. and for democracy against fascism.

In a year or more from the May 17 action in 1980 to October 1981, they walked away 55,000 students who called for campus democracy, imprisoned 15,000 of them for "supervision" by invoking the notorious "social protection law" and threw 38,000 into the army "concentration camps".

They expelled 112,944 students from 98 universities in three years after the enforcement of the graduates quota system" in 1980.

Campus suppression has been most harsh this year. The Chon Du Hwan puppet clique expelled or disciplined in groups over 1,000 students in Seoul under the pretext of "campus discipline" in an attempt to put down the student struggle against Chon Du Hwan's treacherous tour of Japan.

Repression of workers fighting for vital rights and democratic liberties has also been intensified.

The south Korean military fascist clique who put down at the point of the bayonet the struggle of the colliers of the Tongwon Coal Mine in Chongsong District of south Korean Kangwon Province in April 1980 dissolved the Chonggye Clothing Workers Union and closed down the union's office and labor school classroom by invoking article 32 of the "law on labor unions" in January 1981. They let loose more than 100 bandits in a raid on the office room of the Wonpung Wollen Textile Workers' Union on September 27, 1982. On September 19, 1984, they brutally suppressed the garment workers of the Pyonghwa Market in Seoul when they called for vital rights and democratic liberties and arrested 100 of them.

Democrats, "old politicians", pressmen, intellectuals and churchmen are also subjected to harsh repression.

As many as 57,000 people were expelled and 30,000 were imprisoned allegedly for the sake of "social purification" in one year from the "December 12 army purge coup" in 1979 to 1980.

On July 31, 1980 the military fascist clique closed 617 publishing houses and put out of existence 172 kinds of publications on the pretext of "press purification."

They merged or closed down 44 press media and placed the remaining ones under "government" control.

They imposed jail terms upon 3,600 journalists and editors in 1980 and 120 in 1982 on charges of "lack of strong anti-communist consciousness" by invoking the "basic law on the press."

Koreans Abroad Become Target of Suppression

The south Korean military fascist clique stretched out their crooked hand of repression of the press even abroad. For instance, they closed down private broadcasting companies including the Korean-language TV station run by Koreans in Los Angeles, the United States.

In September 1980 the military fascist clique arrested 40 churchmen belonging to the "South Korean Christians Council" and in May 1983 pounced upon its office and in June 1983 made riot police encircle the Songam Church and fire tear gas canisters into the church and destroy its furniture to check a lecture sponsored by the Seoul Federation of Presbyterian Churches to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the June 3 uprising.

The Chon junta had arrested 800 religionists by 1983 and penalized 60 of them through murderous trials.

The Chon Du Hwan group is making desperate efforts to suppress the movement of the overseas Koreans for democracy and reunification.

They faked up "a case of spy infiltration through a round about way" by illegally arresting Japan-resident Korean Son Yu Hyong in June 1981 and sentenced him to death and rigged up five "spy cases of overseas Koreans" in one month from October 13 to November 11, 1981 to crack down upon Koreans abroad. They continue to persecute So Sung and his younger brother So Jun Sik, Japan-born Korean students, kept behind bars for 13 years. They extended without hesitation the expired prison term of So Jun Sik for the fourth time in June 1984.

They penalized over 200 Koreans overseas and patriotic youths by cooking up tens of "cases" including five persons put on trials on charges of involvement in the "Christian academy case" in June 1980.

Various Tortures Routinely Used

The military fascist group practise most barbarous tortures ever known as a main means of fascist repression.

According to foreign press reports, they commit the "taegwondo torture" in which the bones of the so-called "criminal" are broken and their flesh is torn under blows of square sticks, the "beer torture" in which the victim is bound hand and foot to the torture frame and served water mixed with hot pepper, the "chicken roasting torture" in which the victim is hung head downward, stripped naked, and showered on boiling water, the "Jinghis Khan cooking torture" in which the victim is smoked in fire, the "aeroplan torture" in which the victim, bound hand and foot, is hung from the ceiling and revolved, the "electric torture" in which the electric current is put into the human body, the "bamboo needle torture" in which bamboo needles and gimlets are driven into the most sensitive parts of the human body, the "glow lamp torture" in which the victim's eyes and ears are harassed by electric lamps of high wattage and loudspeaker in a narrow room, the "pollack-freeze torture" in which the victim is stripped of his clothes and poured on icy water in winter, the "snake torture" in which the victim is thrown into a room swarmed with serpents, and the "seasaw torture," "nail board torture" and "hair torture." they also commit without hesitation the "sex torture," the culmination of barbarism.

Fascism and Democracy Cannot Coexist

It is the Americans who zealously patronize and encourage the military fascist group, which was without political foothold, to establish a fascist suppressive system and freely commit bloody murder and fascist repression of fellow countrymen.

Egging the south Koreans on to fascism and war, treachery and division, the Americans intend to keep hold on south Korea as their permanent colony an military base in reliance upon pernicious and crafty military fascist ruling system.

But, fascism and democracy cannot coexist.

The day is bound to come when the south Korean puppets' fascist suppressive system, a product of the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule, will fall in face of the people's strong resistance. **(Subtitles are ours . . . Ed.)**

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The demonstrators chanted "Recognize Chonggye Labour Union!" and "Guarantee the Three Rights of Labour!", while hurling stones at riot police.

The labour movement showed its width as illustrated by cabbies' fierce demonstrations in May and the second Chon Tae Il, Pak Jong Man's self-immolation on Nov. 30.

On May 25 cab drivers took a large-scale protest action in a southern provincial city Taegue as over 1,000 cabbies waged a street demonstration against the harsh working conditions of taxi drivers.

Their demand included the betterment of pay system and freedom of labour union activities, etc.

On June 6 some 1,000 cabbies waged a street demonstration demanding the betterment of their plight.

On April 25, the Wong Poong Labour Union called as the last independent union under Chon Du Hwan's rule waged a struggle in protest against the authorities' measure to move the factory into a rural area in an attempt to divide the labour union from other democratic forces.

Wong Poong workers displayed their militancy against the vicious labour laws and for freedom of labour movement, publishing their own periodical "Wong Poong bulletin".

On Nov. 30 Pak Jong Man, a taxi driver in Seoul, set fire on his gasoline-doused body in protest against the repression of labour union and calling for workers' right to existence.

It is widely known that a young textile worker in Chonggye Textile, Chon Tae Il's self-immolation prompted the workers to form the Chonggye Labour Union in 1970 which led an upsurge of labour movement in the 70s, represented by such dramatic action as carried by YH trading and Wong Poong workers.

The second Chon Tae Il case is seen as visible signs of growing militancy among south Korean workers in cooperation with the ever expanding student movement, and on the occasion of his courageous protest action labour movement in south Korea will be gaining further momentum.

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